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SENATE

{ REPORT
No. 362 }

EXTENDING BENEFITS OF SECTION 202 (10) OF THE WORLD WAR VETERANS' ACT

MARCH 2, 1932.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. WALSH of Massachusetts, from the Committee on Finance,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. J. Res. 65]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the joint resolution (S. J. Res. 65) extending the benefits of section 202 (10) of the World War veterans' act, having considered the same, report it back to the Senate and recommend that the bill do not pass.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this bill is to provide the benefits of hospital treatment now authorized by section 202 (10) to all veterans honorably discharged from any term of service from any war, regardless of whether a subsequent term of service terminated dishonorably.

FACTS

Section 202 (10) of the World War veterans' act, 1924, as amended July 3, 1930, extends hospitalization benefits to veterans whose military service terminated under honorable conditions. This bill would provide hospital care under section 202 (10) to that class of veterans to whom the benefits of hospitalization have been denied by reason of the dishonorable discharge from a subsequent war time enlistment.

A veteran of the Spanish-American War honorably discharged who received a dishonorable discharge from a last enlistment in the World War period would be provided with hospital treatment under this bill.

Another provision would grant to any veteran hospitalization who is receiving a pension without regard to the manner in which his services terminated.

The letter of the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs is as follows:

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, February 8, 1932.

Hon. REED SMOOT,
Chairman Committee on Finance,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR SENATOR SMOOT: Reference is made to your letter of December 29, 1931, transmitting a copy of S. J. Res. 65, "Joint resolution extending the benefits of section 202 (10) of the World War veterans' act," requesting a report thereon.

This joint resolution would provide the benefits of hospital treatment now authorized by section 202 (10) of the existing statute to all veterans honorably discharged from any term of service during any war, military occupation, or military expedition, regardless of whether a subsequent period of service was terminated dishonorably. It is apparent that the primary intention of this measure is to provide hospital care under section 202 (10) for that class of veterans to whom the benefits of this section of existing law have been denied by reason of dishonorable discharge from subsequent wartime enlistments; for example, a veteran of the Spanish-American War, honorably discharged, who has received a dishonorable discharge from his last enlistment within the World War period, is held to have no rights to hospitalization provided for by section 202 (10) of the act. The secondary provision of this bill would prevent the denial of hospital treatment under section 202 (10) to any veteran receiving a pension, without regard to the manner in which his services were terminated.

This administration can not recommend favorably concerning proposed legislation which has for its purpose further liberalization of basic entitlement to hospitalization under section 202 (10) of the World War veterans' act, as amended, particularly where provision is included in the bill to extend these benefits to veterans whose last period of war service has been dishonorable.

While the enactment of this bill would probably materially increase the number of veterans entitled to hospitalization, the War Department is unable to furnish any figures upon which to base an estimate of the cost of the proposed legislation. However, it is not believed the cost would be large, since section 202 (10) provides only for hospitalization where Government facilities are available.

A copy of this letter is inclosed for your use.

Very truly yours,

FRANK T. HINES, Administrator.

